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Date: April 15, 2009

Sheif & Hatchings

Our Case No.: 10703/042 (PA-5375-RFB)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Darin G. Schaeffer, et al.

Serial No.: 10/769,962

Filing Date: February 2, 2004

For: TRACHEOSTOMY TUBE AND  
LOADING DILATOR

Examiner: Matter, Kristen Clarette

Group Art Unit No.: 3771

Confirmation No.: 9118

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF JANUARY 16, 2009**

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed January 16, 2009.

**Amendments to the claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on  
page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.